Volume

Legend of the Stone Canoe part 2

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Things'll be great in ought-eight

by Neil Diamond, Will Nicholls and Lyle Stewart

It's time once again for the Nation to consult our tea leaves to give you, our faithful and discerning readers, a scientifically sound set of predictions for the year ahead, some serious, some less so. And boy oh boy is 2008 shaping up to be an exciting year!

Politics

Federal elections in both Canada and the United States have the potential to change our world for the better, with saner policies on global warming, ending imperial war-mongering and helping less fortunate populations at home and around the world.

At the risk of engaging in wishful thinking, the Nation goes out on a limb to prepare you for the phrase we will be using in 12 months' time: U.S. President-elect Barack Obama, who will win November's election in a landslide, with Democratic majorities in both Houses of Congress swept in on his coattails.

With a minority Parliament nearing its second anniversary and Canada's Tory government under Stephen Harper looking increasingly vulnerable, the opposition parties will pull the plug in early spring to force a general election... which will produce almost exactly the same result: a minority Conservative government headed by Stephen Harper.

We will, however, see the election of Green Party Leader Elizabeth May in Nova Scotia, where she will knock off that sexist stuffed shirt Peter Mackay, giving him plenty of time to play with his dog in a field of potatoes. Most interesting of all, according to our inside sources, will be the out-of-left-field candidacy of an upstart Cree politico who will surprise all comers in the unpronounceable riding of Abitibi-Baie-lames-Nunavik-Eeyou.

Sports

The Beijing Olympics this summer will take place in the environmental and political apocalypse that is the Democratic People's Republic of China. We predict that heavy smog will cause the cancellation of several events, including the marathon. Political repression will end

others, as Chinese secret police move in to arrest all athletes whose governments recognize Taiwan or accept the practice of Falun Gong, carting them off for summary executions with a bullet in the back of the head, their vital organs to be sold off on the world transplant market.

The Stanley Cup will not be won by the Toronto Maple Leaves... nor, sadly, by the Montreal Canadiens. But the Cup will come back home to the Great White-and-Brown North when a bunch of Scandinavians playing for the Ottawa Senators will make Canada stand tall and proud once again. The Nation's Capital will take months to repair damages from the resulting riot. Meanwhile, Don Cherry will burst a brain valve and die suddenly. He will be given a state funeral televised live on CBC, which will nonetheless renew his contract.

The Senior Cree ladies' broomball team nude calendar will sell out within days of its publication, amply funding a trip to the world championships in Utsjoki, Finland, where they will be the life of the party at the nearby Mammut Snow Hotel.

Arts and Culture

Matthew Mukash will begin quietly preparing the terrain for his reelection bid the following year by releasing an album of banjo tunes. A Juno nomination will soon follow, as will the requisite Aboriginal Achievement Award.

Celine Dion will play an unannounced concert in Whapmagoostui during her 2008 world tour. The diva of kitsch will run off with a friendly polar bear that innocently wanders into the Whapmagoostui Social Club, saying "Rene is a white haired geezer, but I need a real bear!"

The Nation's star humour columnist Sonny Orr will publish an unauthorized autobiography, which gains international attention after Oprah picks it for her book club. Shame and degradation soon follow as it is discovered that several chapters have been cribbed from the infamous "Letters to Penthouse" books. Sonny Orr will sue the author. And win.

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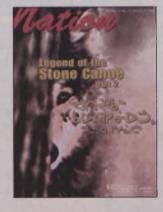
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cover illustration: Brian Webb

Of bears, birds and caribou

The radio crackled with urgent news: polar bears were in town, scrounging for any scrap of food they could find; perhaps a dog or two or some leftovers at the local garbage dump. Keep the kids off the streets and close your porch doors, we were told, just in case one bear is brave enough to drop in for a visit and a snack.

The Great Bear Emergency of 2007 reminds me of one year when a bear came to town and tried to do just that. One buddy, Mick, I'll call him, was leisurely enjoying his usual fare of caribou à la raw, when he heard a commotion outside his house. He quickly looked outside his front window and didn't see anything unusual and went back to his meal. A minute later, a shot was heard, quite loud and uncomfortably close.

Mick still saw nothing, so he tried to go outside. Strangely, the door wouldn't budge an inch, no matter how hard he tried to push it. He called the police, but not much help came from them, as they were all out on an important call.

Soon, the sound of heavy machinery was heard outside his house. Mick looked out, completely baffled as to what the heck was going on. He soon saw what the problem was with his door: a massive polar bear had climbed up into his porch and was feasting on his caribou (in the north, unheated porches often double as a freezer during winter months). His neighbour, Tony, had shot the Ursus maritimus with his high-powered rifle while the bear was still in the porch. Much to Mick's relief, it was not an unruly neighbour but a hungry bear that had caused all the commotion.

are everywhere, even outside the band office in the middle of town. Shots are heard (just at the time of this writing) somewhere past the town garage. Where wilderness and town meet, you'll see someone with a shotgun, shooting his lunch.



That reminds me of when we had to hunt way inland, near the Laforge area, just to get these feathered delicacies. When I was aiming for a few birds in the Hydro complex I heard a loud voice telling me, in French, not to shoot so close to the building. Completely wide-eyed with disbelief at his attitude, I fired off a quick shot. Then I left before the cops could show

Today, just like the days of old, the ptarmigan are everywhere, just waiting to be cooked for supper.

As for Rudolph the Reindeer's cousins, the caribou, they are jamming the James Bay Highway, turning a short 10-hour trip turn into a 16-hour avoidance trial. The trip is longer, but the tempers are much shorter. The oohs and ahhs when the caribou are first sighted soon become waa's and other expletives.

The driver oozes frustration at not being able to drive quicker than a crawl, lest the insurance company ask questions such as, "Were you driving carefully around the herd of 2,000? Did you not see those animals? Is this an act of God or just lousy driving skills?"

That reminds me of another person who had tried to get her vehicle repaired for a deal in Abitibi. She was quickly discouraged by the dealer's answer, which was somewhere near the Prime Minister's paycheck level and left town to head north in despair.

Not far into her voyage to home, out popped an unfortunate caribou herd, which she quickly managed to crash into and damage her vehicle beyond repair. When recounting this mishap, she gladly shared that she got a new vehicle out of the accident and had enough meat to last the rest of the

So, looking at the bright side of nature gone wild and clashing with modern times, you can get by with a fortunate accident once in a while.

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Canada

Never say die Chapais mayor finds Poles to fund his pigs

By Steve Bonspiel

Chapais Mayor Jacques Bérubé says he has found new European backing in his never-ending quest to establish an industrial-sized hog farm in his town. The Polish investment firm Lopata Investment Holding is currently funding a pork operation in Siberia, among many other ventures in 17 countries.

The Chibougamau newspaper la Sentinelle quoted Bérubé as saying the firm has requested answers to 34 questions before going ahead. The mayor's European tour, which cost Chapais taxpayers almost \$70,000, took place November 17-26.

Waswanipi Chief John Kitchen is not amused.

"It was pretty shocking," he said of the article. "I guess people like Mr. Bérubé have no respect for the Cree Nation."

Kitchen has written to the Chapais Mayor to express Waswanipi's vehement opposition to the proposed \$100-million pig farm, which would produce massive amounts of waste. Local tallymen are also opposed to the project.

Waswanipi's band council also passed a resolution affirming their stance.

"They said they want to talk to us and discuss it, but I think [going to Europe] is unacceptable," said Kitchen. "We did our homework and we visited other places that already have pig farms. We did not like what we saw and heard and we don't want one in our backyard."

Chapais Director General Laurent Levasseur said Crees "have a right to be consulted and right to be opposed to it, but it's not them who will have the last say, it's the Quebec government."

"I'm not surprised," said Kitchen. "He needs to remember we have rights on our own territory. I think the Deputy of our region, Mr. [Luc] Ferland, should stand up and say something."

COMEX, the Quebec-Cree environmental review committee, still has not received an answer from the Provincial Administrator after a request was made August 2005 for additional information.

The proposed project would see upwards of 100,000 hogs imported to the boreal forest - an area never before used for such an endeavor. Many experts, including Sierra Club Science Advisor Daniel Green, think the project is doomed to failure.

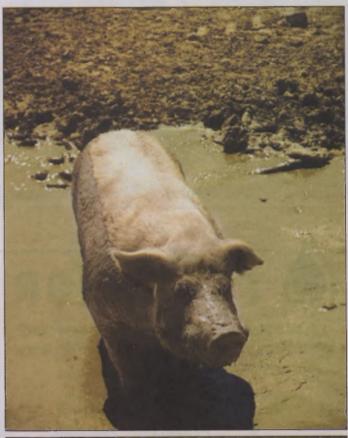
Although he has not done extensive research on Chapais' proposed pig farm, Green has over 20 years experience in his field and he has worked in other places in Quebec that have similar mass-production facilities.

"This is a project that will reduce their quality of life," he said. "The economic gains will be cancelled by the environmental and public health problems. Quebec history has been based on these boom-and-bust, high-pollution endeavors."

Kitchen said that he would be writing another letter to Bérubé to re-state Waswanipi's concerns and their firm position against the project. He is also trying to arrange a meeting with a representative from the Polish firm to stress the reality of the situation.

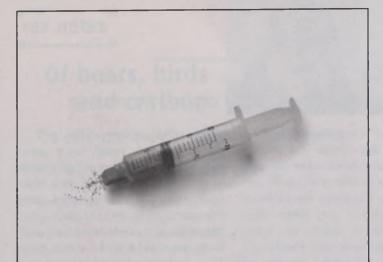
The pollution and all the manure going into the water is very scary to us and to our community.

Waswanipi Chief John Kitchen





Chapais Mayor Jacques Bérubé



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Rough weather behind polar bear invasion?

By Amy German

Three polar bears have been shot in and around the twin communities of Whapmagoostui and Kuujjuaraapik by Inuit hunters after as many as six made unusual visits to the Cree/Inuit towns. Public warnings were aired during the week December 9-15, but Kuujjuaraapik Mayor Lucassie Inukpuk said they are now "long gone."

"I heard that there was an exaggeration of numbers, there was actually five or six at the most," said Inukpuk.

He speculated that environmental conditions may have prompted the bears to try urban living. "The bay was really rough, there was nothing but ice and the west wind is very strong because we are facing the west at the bay," Inukpuk observed. "A whole week it was rough, high seas. I don't know if they are hungry because our city dump was smoldering with smoke and I think it was the smell of garbage or something."

Whapmagoostui resident Sonny Orr had another theory for the polar bears' foray into town. "I also hear that there were lots of seals in this area. For example, on Long Island, which is just north of James Bay, there are about 60 bears there," Orr said.

Orr said three bears were shot by Inuit hunters, though their quota for the season is only two.

Polar bear invasion rumours spread wildly, because, while only five or six bears actually approached Whapmagoostui, according to Orr, "there was more like 26 of them in the immediate area," that were being tracked with satellite collars.

Others think global warming could be a factor. "Climate change is why they tend to be near communities because the sea ice hasn't formed," said Bill Doidge, director of the Nunavik Research Centre, which is part of the Makivik

"So they stay on land because as soon as they can they go out on the sea ice and start hunting seals in the wintertime they do."

Doidge pointed out that the ice in southwestern Hudson Bay has been forming later in the season and melting earlier in the spring. "The ice is further offshore so there have been stories of bears having to swim for their lives," said Doidge.



Climate change is why they tend to be near communities in that the sea ice hasn't formed. And so they stay on land because as soon as they can they go out on the sea ice and start hunting seals in the wintertime they do.

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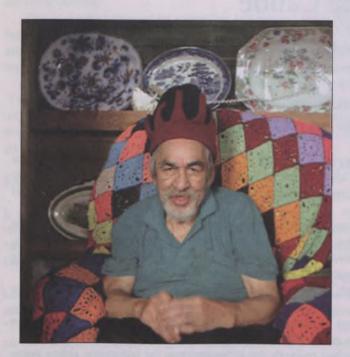








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Copper Thunderbird flies no more

Canada lost a living legend December 4 with the death of celebrated Anishinaabe Shaman painter Norval Morrisseau, aka Copper Thunderbird. Dubbed "the Picasso of the North," Morrisseau died in Toronto at the age of 75 from complications of Parkinson's disease.

Morrisseau's work was characterized by heavy black lines and vibrant colours. His pieces chronicled his people's legends, political tensions, spirituality and mysticism. He is considered to be one of the founding members of a new art movement, being the first aboriginal to break into the professional art market in Canada.

Born March 14, 1932 on the Sand Point Ojibway reserve near Beardmore, Ontario, Morrisseau's work first began to rise in popularity in the early 1960s when Toronto art dealer Jack Pollock organized an exhibition of his work at his Toronto gallery.

His star began to rise when he was commissioned for a large mural in the Indians of Canada Pavilion at Expo 67 that depicted the social and political dissatisfaction of the First Nations People of Canada.

Morrisseau was awarded the Order of Canada in 1978 and in 1979 he founded the Thunderbird School of Shamanistic Arts.

A retrospective of his works that featured over 60 original Morrisseau pieces was put on from 2005-2006 at the National Gallery of Canada in Ottawa, blazing the trail for yet more aboriginal artists as this was the first time that the Gallery dedicated a solo exposition to a Native artist.

In November Morrisseau was named to receive a lifetime achievement award through the 2008 National Aboriginal Achievement Awards. He will most likely still receive the award posthumously.

Quebec Inuit sign self-government agreement

A new deal signed December 5 between the Inuit of Nunavik and the federal government will see self-governance become reality for the Inuit.

The Makivik Corporation met with both the federal and provincial governments at the National Assembly to formally endorse an agreement-in-principle on the creation of the Nunavik Regional Government. The deal will create a form of self-government on Inuit territory, which includes all land in the province north of the 55th parallel. This pact, which was reached last summer, will build upon the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement.

The Nunavik deal will be unlike the one reached by their Inuit counterparts in Nunavut because Nunavik will not have full sovereignty over the region and the new government will still have to answer to Quebec. What it actually will do is give the Inuit communities the ability to elect their own assembly and have control over various government services like education and health as well as all matters in relation to the preservation of their native culture.

All of Nunavik's existing municipal governance will be consolidated into one institution that will be governed by a regional assembly of 21 members with a leader who will have less power than a premier but more than a mayor.

Dudley George wins his fight

More than a decade after an unarmed protestor was shot and killed during a standoff at Ipperwash Provincial Park, the Ontario government has agreed to hand the land back to its rightful owners, the Chippewas of Kettle and Stony Point First Nations.

The handover, which will take effect in the New Year, will mean that the park will be co-managed by the government and both First Nations until they can come to an agreement as to how to use the land.

Dudley George was shot dead in an unprovoked attack September 6, 1996, after then-Ontario Premier Mike Harris told OPP commanders to "Get the fucking Indians out of the park."

Sergeant Kenneth Deane was charged with criminal negligence causing death in 1997 after a court ruled he did not have a "reasonable belief" that George was carrying a weapon. He was suspended, received 180 hours of community service and later resigned from the force.

The election of Premier Dalton McGuinty's Liberals in 2003 brought about a lengthy 25-month inquiry into Dudley George's death. It led to a report on the issue that suggested the land be given back to the bands immediately.

The land in question was taken by the Canadian Armed Forces during the Second World War and used as a base. It was supposed to be temporary and returned later on, but that did not happen until now, 60 years later.



Stone Canoe

told by Job Kawapit of Whapmagoostui translated and transcribed by Brian Webb

The conclusion of the legend of the Stone Canoe from the last issue of the Nation.

he young man again sank down in the water and walked on the lake bed. He saw sturgeons and shot arrows at them. He collected air bladders and cut off some of the flesh. The young man then headed back for the camp.

When he returned, his father-in-law had not yet arrived. He told his two young sons to eat the fish by the beach and wait for their grandfather to return.

Stone Canoe slowly drifted back to camp. He saw his little grandsons eating something at the beach. He called out, "Grandchildren, what are you eating?"

"We're eating fish," they called back. "Our father brought back some fish. He already returned."

Stone Canoe was astounded, "What? It can't be your father. The sturgeon must be tossing around your dead father by now."

Stone Canoe rushed towards the lodge and saw his son-in-law sitting inside preparing the air bladders. Beside the young man were snakes slithering around. Stone Canoe was bewildered.

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 Stone Canoe's daughters noticed his gaze and commented, "Our father always seems to stare at us." He answered, "My daughters, I'm not looking at you. I'm looking at those snakes slithering around."

The young man finished his canoe. He still needed some flight feathers from an eagle to attach to the stern of the canoe. He asked his wives, "Does your father have any eagle flight feathers?"

The two women asked their father, but he didn't have any. "I've already told you that I abandoned all my tools when your mother left us. But there is a place where I collected flight feathers from eagles. They have very beautiful flight feathers. I could go get them if I wanted to," the father said.

Once again, the young man said that he would accompany Stone Canoe when he goes for the eagle feathers.

The two of them left in the canoe made of stone. They slowly cruised along the lake. They reached a very steep, high cliff with eagles soaring above. Stone Canoe mentioned, "These ones have poor flight feathers. We'll go to the eagle that has good flight feathers."

They reached river rapids that looked very treacherous. On both sides of the rapids were very high cliffs. Huge eagles soared above. He told his son-in-law to sit on the bow of the canoe. "That's what I do when I gather eagle feathers." The young man sat on the bow of the canoe. Stone Canoe blew a magical breath on his son-in-law and the young man floated up towards an eagle nest high up on the cliff. The young man landed on the ledge where an eagle nest was. Stone Canoe drifted away and commented, "Now, he won't be able to free himself."

An eagle flew towards the nest and the young man shot an arrow at it. After killing the eagle, he plucked off the flight feathers and made his way back to camp.

When the young man reached camp, Stone Canoe had not yet arrived. The young man made little bows and arrows for his young sons. He fletched the arrows with the eagle feathers. "Go play with your bows and arrows outside. Your grandfather might be coming back soon. Go wait for him."

Stone Canoe slowly drifted towards camp. He saw his little grandsons playing with bows and arrows. As he got closer, he saw the arrows were fletched with eagle feathers. He called out, "Grandchildren, who made your bows and arrows?" The little boys answered, "Our father did. He already came back."

Stone Canoe asked again, "Where did you get those feathers?" The little boys answered back, "These are what he brought back."

"It can't be your father," he insisted. "The eagles must be tossing around your dead father by now."

The little boys insisted that their father did in fact arrive. Stone Canoe rushed towards the lodge and saw his son-in-law inside preparing the eagle feathers to adorn the canoe he was making. Beside the young man were snakes slithering around. Stone Canoe was stunned to see this. He stared at them.

Stone Canoe's daughters noticed his stare and commented, "Our father always seems to gawk at us." "I'm not looking at you," he retorted. "I'm looking at those snakes slithering around."

The young man finished preparing his eagle feathers and went down towards the beach. He attached them to the stern of the



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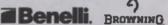
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canoe. The young man took his canoe to the water to test it. He instructed his canoe to go and it darted off. The canoe was so fast. As the young man sped off in his canoe, the wings of an eagle seemed spread out from the canoe. After the test, he instructed the canoe to head back towards shore.

The young man spoke to his wives. "Tell your father to forget about his old canoe. It's too slow. He'll use the canoe I have made for him." The women passed on the message to their father. Stone Canoe was overjoyed. The young man said, "Let your father test the new canoe." Stone Canoe was impressed with the speed of the new canoe.

The young man told his wives, "Tell him to be more assertive with the canoe." The women called out to their father, "Be more assertive with your canoe!" Stone Canoe accelerated and sped around on the water. He saw what seemed to be eagle wings spreading from the canoe. Stone Canoe screamed in panic. "My daughters, an eagle is taking me away!" The canoe slowed down and headed back towards the camp.

The young man asked his wives, "What would you think if I killed your father?" His wives answered, "We would not mind. He is such a cruel person for killing all men who were interested in marrying us."

The young man told his wives, "Tell your father that we'll play a game to see if we can fly. We'll go find flight feathers first." The two women passed the message along to their father. Stone Canoe and the young man went in search for flight feathers. The young man collected flight feathers from a northern water thrush and Stone Canoe collected flight feathers from a grey jay.

They went down to the beach to a narrow part of the lake. The young man said that he would try first. The young man ran towards the shore. As he got close to the water's edge, he pressed the feathers onto his shoulders. He shifted his form and a northern waterthrush flew across the water with the tips of his wings tapping the water. He landed on the other side of the lake. The young man called out to his father-in-law, "Now, you try."

Stone Canoe ran towards the water's edge. He pressed the flight feathers on his shoulders. He shifted into grey jay. His flaps paused intermittently in mid-flight. Half way, the young man screamed and whistled at the grey jay. The bird stopped in mid-air and fell. Stone Canoe splashed into the water.

Stone Canoe swam towards shore on his back with this toes sticking out. The young man shot arrows at him but the arrows seemed to have no affect on Stone Canoe.

A crow happened to fly by. Stone Canoe angrily called out, "Crow, what bad timing for you to be flying around here. You're such a big mouth." The young man called out to the crow, "Where does Stone Canoe keep his strength? I can't seem to kill him." The crow answered, "See his little toe? If you hit that, you'll kill him."

The young man aimed at Stone Canoe's little toe and finally killed him. Stone Canoe was dead. The young man returned home and announced to his wives, "I've killed your

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With Christmas just weeks away, the annual Salon des métiers d'art du Quebec opened its doors December 7 for 11 days of handicrafts and "one-of-akind" shopping madness.

Opening night shoppers and craft enthusiasts packed the hallways of downtown's Place Bonaventure exposition hall, perusing the incredible array of handmade products. From cosmetics to candles, leather products to woollen goods, mustards, cheeses, décor items, toys, games and just about every alcoholic beverage the province produces was on offer at this show.

For the first time, the Cree Native Arts and Crafts Association was among the 450 exhibitors at the event. The CNACA booth showcased three exclusively Cree products: spruce bark baskets, moose-hide mittens and tamarack goose decoys.

"The crafts here are part of a community project," explained CNACA Executive Director Clarence Snowboy. For example, he said, the tamarack goose decoys were produced in Waskaganish, where the association held training sessions to help people increase decoy production. "There was a demand we could not meet. We had 16 young people, most of them from Waskaganish, two from Nemaska and one from Wemindji for a three-week training."

Getting into the salon was not easy, Snowboy explained. "We had to be specific about what kind of product we wanted to promote and we had to demonstrate how these things were made. We pulled it off, so now we're representing the Crees."

The CNACA table also featured community members: a few Montreal-based volunteers demonstrating how the products were made.

"We are showcasing these products and trying to communicate to the visitors that these are traditional, distinct Cree products that are representative of traditional Cree handicrafts," said Susan Bourdon, one of the CNACA volunteers. "So, as this is like our premiere in Montreal, we are equally trying to be visible. We had three and four generations of families coming together to make these handicrafts. We are trying to show the public that the transmission of tradition and culture is still prevalent amongst the Crees."

Perusing the exhibitor's booths throughout the enormous show room, Quebec's distinct flare for the artistic and bohemian spirit was on display, particularly in the garments and home décor items.

One booth featured original wood and aluminum lamps that reach from floor to ceiling. Said designer and product maker Pierre Nicholas Cote of L'Assomption, "The lamps hang from the ceiling from a plant hook. They are not very heavy and you have the electricity at the bottom with a foot dimmer to control the brightness and all of the shades are handmade. The lamps are made with Japanese paper, I laminate the paper on the plastic so that they are safe and will not burn." Cote has a showroom and website: www.pierre-nicholas.ca.

Daniel Pepin sells fur hats, earmuffs and accessories. He beamed with pride when he spoke of his products and labour of love. "I make all of the hats and fur accessories and I even trap a portion of the animals I use to make my fur products. I am a half-breed of Amerindian origin as my grandmother was Innu-Montagnais. So, I trap them and do just about everything else. I make my products out of coyote, wolf, mixed fox, beaver, wild cats. I have been making these products for 30 years," said Pepin. Though he does not have a website, he sells his products to various stores and from his shop. He can be reached at 450-589-7732 and by mail at 178 rue Forest, St-Sulpice, Quebec, I5W 417

tured a coffee table and lamp set made out of branches and resin. Said Jerome Gagnon, a designer and graduate of the program: "They are made of a transparent epoxy resin and wood. I tried to go for a look that was not too satiny and perfectly clear. The woods are woods of Quebec, cut up branches and I have placed them in a way that has a mosaic effect. They were sanded very finely to preserve the beauty of the wood and you can see the time and craftsmanship that went into the product." For more information contact Gagnon by email at gagnonebeniste@hotmail.com

Of course it would not be a Salon des metiers d'art without the famous alcoholic beverages. This year's show had everything from beers to wines to ciders to ports and some beverages made out of the most unlikely of homegrown products. They were a pleasure to sample in the largely successful goal of creating new enthusiasts.

The Pedneault cider factory had many delectable products. Monsieur Pedneault was manning the booth and was delighted to show off the fruit of his labour.

"At our vineyard we have 24 different alcoholic products and today, here we have brought our eight winners," he noted. Among the samples of his prize-winning aperitifs was the Pedneault Apple-Pear Mistelle (an aperitif comprised of liquor and wine), which had a charming flavour, according to professional



taster Will Nicholls.



James Bay Cree Telephone Book

Meegwetch

We here at Beesum Communications would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who generously contributed to updating the new Cree phone book. We could not have done it without you!

Special thanks go out to the Band Council representatives who graciously compiled and updated community telephone listings. Your dedication and hard work is greatly appreciated.

The 2008 Phone Books are in!

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"It has a very nice taste going down. It has a little kick to it that sort of surprised me but I loved it, and this is the first time that I have actually had a pear aperitif," said Nicholls, his cheeks beginning to glow with Christmas spirit.

"We start out with high quality juices and end up with high quality alcoholized products," Pedneault explained. "We even now have vintages 2003 and 2004 at our store."

Pedeneault cider products are available both at the cider factory and through their website at www.vergerpedneault.com

Though Quebec might not be as synonymous as Ontario with the term "wine country," believe it or not, the province boasts over 40 vineyards and in recent years the industry has been gaining in popularity.

The Vingoble Domaine of Saint-Armand, Quebec, had its own display of wines for purchase and sampling, much to the delight of the crowd surrounding the booth. The wine producer boasted that the Eastern Townships-based vineyard has the best selling local rosé wine in the province.

"We sell the white, rosé and red at the SAQ at the Atwater Market, but the speciality products are available only at the vine-yard. We have been on the market since 1999 so it's quite new but we are the second largest vineyard in the Eastern Townships. We won the gold for the best red wine in Quebec this year."

The port-wine, one of the speciality products on display, is exclusively available at the vineyard and trade shows. Mr. Nicholls courageously sampled it on behalf of the Nation.

"It's earthy, almost acidic but it's not bad. It is a very sweet port that shows a lot of promise. It's something that I would probably put away for about five years and then expect to evolve into something that would be very amazing because it's a very good port right now so it can only get better," said Nicholls. To find out more about these products call 450-248-3987 or email domridge@sympatico.ca

With so many products to take in, one visit to this annual event was simply not enough! To find out more about the Salon des Metier d'Art, go to www.salondesmetiersdart.com



continued from page 13

father." The women simply smiled and said, "Now, he won't bother with us anymore."

The young man prepared to rescue his younger brother. The young man, his wives and their two little sons all left in the canoe. When they reached the sandy cove, they saw nothing but wolf tracks. The young man commented, "I suppose the wolves have raised my younger brother."

A pack of wolves emerged from a distance and ran along the beach. He saw his younger brother with the wolves. He was starting to change into a wolf. As the young brother ran, he sang a song. "I'm already half-wolf."

The older brother called out to him, "Younger brother, let me fix you. I'll change you back to be human." The younger brother replied, "Let me be. I was so miserable when you left me. But it is so easy for me to hunt now. I'm glad to be who I am now." The older brother agreed.

The older brother called out again, "Since you're such a good hunter, I will ask you one thing. In the future, don't bother with the food that people have cached. It will be difficult for them to secure food. Only after a great deal of effort can they eat. But for you, you just clamp down your jaws to catch food." The younger brother agreed and ran off with the pack of wolves.

Translator's notes: The snakes could mean that the young man was showing his shamanistic powers to Stone Canoe.

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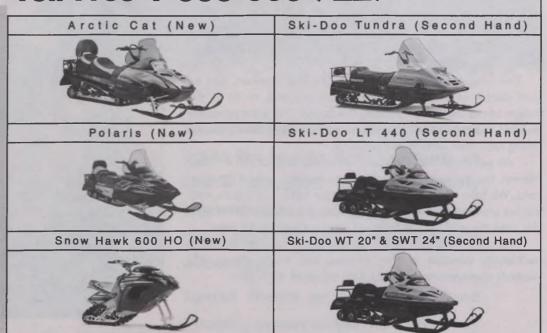
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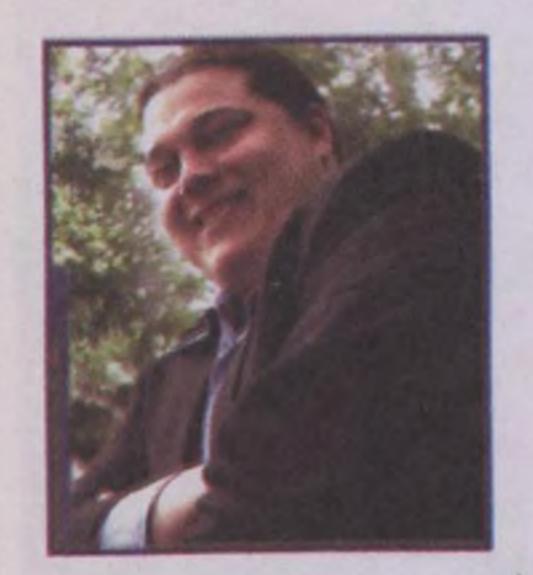


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Alexis Wawanoloath

First native MNA backs Quebec sovereignty Alexis Wawanoloath parlays Friendship Centre networking

into seat at National Assembly

By Amy German

Alexis Wawanoloath became the first Aboriginal in Quebec to sit in the National Assembly when he won his riding of Abitibi-Est in the last provincial election March 26. As a Parti Québécois MNA, Wawanoloath says he is not only breaking ground for aboriginal people in politics but that, as the PQ youth critic, he is focused on bringing all Quebecers together in solidarity.

Though he had always aspired to be in politics Wawanoloath had an unlikely journey to political success. The 25-year-old Métis struggled with academia, leaving high school prematurely and having to return later on to an adult education program.

"I was born here in Val D'Or, my mom comes from the Odenak, Abenaki reserve and my dad is a Québécois, a LaRouche from Val D'Or," he said.

Wawanoloath's mother is celebrated Quebec artist Christine Sioui-Wawanoloath.

"When my parents separated, my mother chose to move in with her mother on the reserve, we lived there for a little over a year. It was the only time that I actually spent living on a reserve. I would go back in the summers to live with my grandmother but that year was the longest that I lived there," said Wawanoloath, whose name means "the one who gets in the way of his enemy."

Though he grew up shuttling between Montreal, Val D'Or and the Odenak reserve, the one thing that was always constant with Wawanoloath was his involvement with the Quebec Friendship Centre network.

"Whenever I was in Val D'Or, the Friendship Centre has always been in my life, my mom worked there, my dad worked there and I have grown up there to a certain extent. It's where I had my first job and it is where I was also involved in the youth council when I was 16 or 17," he said.

Wawanoloath also credits the Friendship Centre in Val D'Or for the bulk of his aboriginal cultural knowledge, "though I learned a few words of my mother's language, I learned much more traditional stuff at the Friendship Centre."

Wawanoloath served as the vice president of the board of directors and a member of the youth council for the Val d'Or

Aboriginal Friendship Centre from 2004 to 2007. He also represented the urban youth for the board of the Regroupement Centre d'Amitié autochtone du Québec, the provincial friendship centre association, from 2004-2006, serving as the chairman and member of the Aboriginal Youth Council, National Association of Friendship Centres from 2005-2006.

It took a journey far away from home for Wawanoloath to find himself. "I went travelling in France for 10 months when I was 20. It was something that really made me who I am today. I was at a crossroads in my life and travelling made me face myself," he said.

When he came home, Wawanoloath moved to Montreal as he had found the love of his life there. "I also wanted to try out university but it did not work out because I had another opportunity to come back to Val D'Or and do the early childhood educator program."

Wawanlolath graduated from the aboriginal early childhood educator program at Cégep de l'Abitibi-Témiscamingue in 2005. He then worked as a technician in social work at l'Or-et-des-Bois School Board and as an educator at a daycare centre.

However, dreams of a sovereign Quebec drew Wawanoloath away from working with children and into politics. After working his way up through the PQ network, he finally threw his name in as a candidate in February of 2007 and narrowly won his seat over the incumbent, Pierre Corbeil. "It's been going very well," Wawanoloath claimed. "I like politics, I like to have influence and meet people. I am a pretty curious person and when you are a deputy you always have the top information."

Wawanoloath believes the Parti Quebecois has the best platform for the aboriginals of Quebec because in his mind they have the same goals. "We are survivors. They tried to assimilate us and they tried to put us down. All First Nations and Quebecers want to see the survival of their mother tongues. The 'nous' in Quebec is comprised of the Québécois and the First Nations. I used that for both: I am an Abenaki-Québécois and a Québécois -Abenaki," said Wawanoloath.

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December I was World AIDS Day and though it's been 26 years since the human immunodeficiency virus was first recognized, new transmissions still happen every day.

"The less we judge, the more we can help prevent people who inject drugs from catching or transmitting HIV" is this year's Quebec Ministry of Health and Social Services campaign slogan. Coincidentally, according to Martine Drolet, RN and Program Officer for Sexual and Mental Health for the Cree Public Health Department, intravenous drug use is the most common way for an aboriginal person to contract HIV.

"The Cree communities have approximately the same infection rate as the rest of the general population of Quebec," said Drolet. For the rest of the population of both Quebec and Canada, gay men lead the way with the highest new infection rate.

The numbers are hard to pin down, however. According to Drolet, for every HIV-positive diagnosis there are two unknown cases. What this gets down to really is that though HIV is preventable, people are not taking the necessary precautions to avoid contracting the disease.

"The aboriginal population is very at risk, particularly the women," said Drolet. "There are a lot of factors like prostitution, lack of power in the relationship, sexual abuse; there is a lot of drug use, too. So it's all linked and those women are less able to say no or negotiate condom use. It's all linked to self esteem and we are working hard on that."

The numbers for AIDS infections among the aboriginal population across Canada is significantly skewed by the concentration of aboriginal intravenous drug users in the Vancouver area. Within the Cree communities there is a great deal more emphasis put on safer sex practices as the rates for some sexually transmitted infections, or STIs, are very high and have been high for some time.

A particular worry is the high rate of Chlamydia infections among the Cree. "I know that the rate keeps increasing. I have to say that I have difficulty with the statistic because I think that we are probably screening much more than the rest of the population of Quebec," said Drolet.

In the communities, both men and women are being given urine tests to screen for the STI because not only is there a high rate for Chlamydia, there is also a high re-infection rate for those who have already had the STI treated.

"So, this gives us more cases for them despite all of the screening. We are facing the fact that they are not protecting themselves and those people are very, very at risk of getting HIV. Because of the remote places, when one person infects another, the disease can spread around the community rapidly," said Drolet.

To combat new HIV transmission and other STI occurrences, Drolet has made it her personal mandate to improve access to information, education and condoms.

Condoms are now accessible in all of the bathrooms at all of the clinics. This way, "You don't have to ask anybody. You come in, go in the toilet, you take condoms and you leave and they are free."

Some communities, such as Mistissini, have condoms available in the band office but they are also available at the wellness centres, from any health professional who works within the community, school nurses, CHRs and summertime street workers. They are always free.

What Drolet has found from focus groups and through talking to community members is that the best place for a young person to acquire a condom is in their home, especially for youth aged 15-29, who are the most at risk.

"Parents, brothers, sisters, uncles, whatever - keep condoms in your place because you generally tend to need them when the clinic is closed and when the wellness centre is closed," said Drolet, referring to how young people are the least likely to plan to use a condom.

However, knowledge and education are essential partners to condom promotion. Anyone can have condoms on hand but negotiating the use of them between partners is another story.

To teach youth about sexual health, including how to negotiate safer sex, Public Health has initiated two pilot programs in Waskaganish and Waswanipi, in which Grade 9 students come into classrooms to teach students in Grade 8.

"It will be another two years before the sex-ed programs will be implemented in all of the schools, but the good news is that we have school nurses in almost all of the communities," said Drolet.

Drolet believes that a lack of information on infectious diseases has caused problems in the communities. The fact that sex education classes have never been taught in the communities has contributed to rampant unprotected sex. Drolet also theorizes that the residential school system is to blame: when children don't have access to their parents, there is no one to teach them about sexuality and relationships.

"All of the rites of passage and cultural knowledge are not transmitted anymore from parents to children and now the adult generation who has children does not know about sex. They don't know what to say, they don't know what to teach," said Drolet.

Whether someone became infected with HIV through sexual contact, using dirty needles or through something as innocuous as a bloody fistfight, the means is irrelevant. The most important thing is that the individual not be judged nor stigmatized.

"We never know who has HIV, it could be you, it could be your brother or sister," said Drolet.

It is estimated that 33.2 million people are now living with the disease world-wide and though modern medicine has made it possible for the infected to live significantly longer than previously, there is still no

For more information go to http://creepublichealth.org

EMPLOYMENT



THE CREE CONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT COMPANY LTD/GESTION ADC IS PRESENTLY SEARCHING FOR:

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

This individual reports to the Director of Gestion ADC and is responsible for providing administrative support. These duties include but are not limited to: assisting staff with routine office tasks, including typing, filing, transcribing meeting minutes.

Employment Requirements:

- Certificate in accounting, administration, or any other related training- or an equivalent professional experience;
- Demonstrated written and oral communication skills
- Demonstrated ability to work independently and as a team.
- Minimum two years clerical or administrative experience.
- · Word processing skills.
- Proficiency with Microsoft Office software.
- Knowledge of general office machines and telephone sys-
- Ability and willingness to work cooperatively with oth-
- High degree of discretion dealing with confidential information.

REFERENCE NUMBER: Chisasibi ref. - 074 LOCATION: Chisasibi

TWO (2) HUMAN **RESOURCES AGENTS**

Under the authority of the Director of HR, the Human Resources Agents are implicated in many administrative tasks associated with the department of Human Resources. They maintain updated monthly statistics, the different databases associated and the physical employee files: hiring, departures, promotions, permutations, and transfers. They bring their technical and administrative support in all tasks relating to dotation, training, CSST, policies and procedures, etc.

Employment Requirements:

- Diploma in office administration or secretarial studies; And/or
- Two (2) to three (3) years experience in similar or related posi-
- Excellent computer skills;
- Strong communication skills;
- Good organizational skills;
- Reliable and discrete:
- Willing to work 40 hours per
- Excellent knowledge in English and French, both written & spoken;
- · Ability to speak Cree is considered an asset;
- Must be disposed to follow any required training.

REFERENCE NUMBER: Mistissini ref. – 072 LOCATION:

Mistissini

JUNIOR ACCOUNTING

Under the authority of the Director of Finance & Administration, the Junior Accounting Clerk gives his support to the finance team. Assists in the calculation, preparation and treatment of all notes. invoices and account payables, perform all data entry and all the filing related to the finance department.

Employment Requirements:

- Certificate in accounting or any other related training (ex. Bookkeeping) - or an equivalent professional experience; And/or
- Two years of experience in similar position is required;
- Appropriate computer skills (Excel - Word -accounting programs) is
- a definite asset:
- An appropriate knowledge of French & English, written and spoken;
- Ability to speak Cree is considered an asset;
- · Must be disposed to follow any required training.

REFERENCE NUMBER: Chisasibi ref. - 071

LOCATION: Chisasibi

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE TECHNICIAN

The Accounts Payable (AP) Technician calculates, prepares, and treats the notes. invoices and accounts payable as well as any other routine files in accordance with the established procedures and with respect of the laws, rules, regulations, policies and others.

Employment Requirements:

- A college diploma in accounting or any other type of inherent training Ex: bookkeeping -or an equivalent professional experience; And/or
- Three years experience in a similar position;
- Appropriate knowledge of computer skills (Excel -Word -Access -Accounting programs);
- An appropriate knowledge of French & English, written and spoken:
- Ability to speak Cree is considered an asset:
- Autonomous and discreet:
- Must be willing to follow necessary job training to be held in Mistissini.

REFERENCE NUMBER: Chisasibi ref. - 070 LOCATION:

Chisasibi

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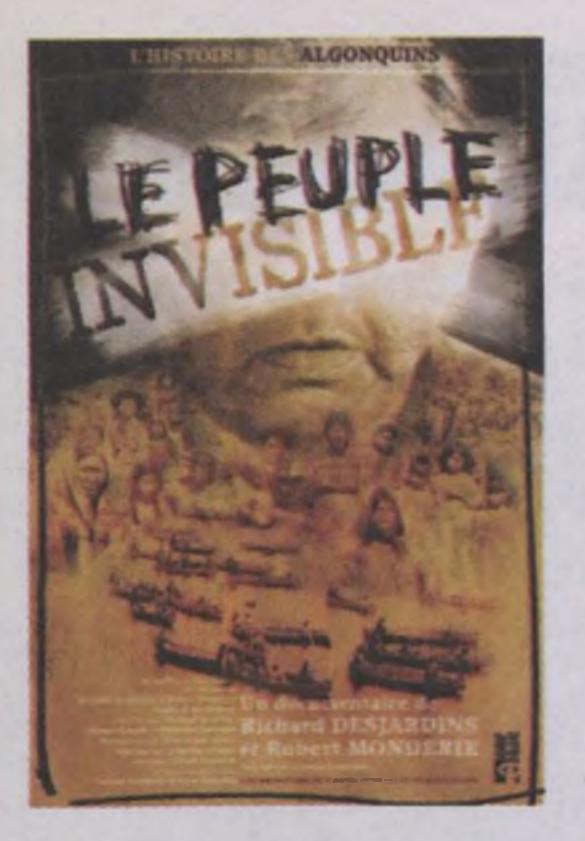
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The Invisible Nation

Filmmaker Richard Desjardins chronicles the near extinction of the Algonquin people and the squalid living conditions of their few remaining descendants

By Amy German

In November, Abitibi-Témiscamingue's best-known cultural export – Richard Desjardins – released his latest theatrical oeuvre, a jaw-dropping documentary about the genocide of the Algonquin tribes called *The Invisible Nation* or *Le peuple invisible*, and for as much as audiences have been shocked, the government is still turning a blind eye.

The film itself is an intensive 93-minute look at the Algonquin communities of Quebec, their population decline from 80,000 to 9,000 and the truly grim conditions in which they presently live. From communities without water or electricity in mould-infested plywood homes, to reserves where the infant mortality rate is five times higher than the rest of the population, *The Invisible Nation* chronicles the unimaginable circumstances that the Algonquin people suffer.

Desjardins himself recalls how in his childhood, all he knew of the Algonquin people was how he would always see them walking along the 117 highway. "We just wondered why are they there, for a long time it was just that simple question and the just fundamental question, we realized that we did not know anything about them," he said.

So Desjardins and his long-time collaborator Robert Monderie embarked on a journey to discover the Algonquin people he had come to know while they were filming their landmark 1999 documentary *L'erreur boréale*.

Needless to say, both Desjardins and Monderie were shocked and horrified by what they discovered. "I did not know that it was forbidden to hunt from 15 kilometres from the road right in the middle of their territory, this says a lot. And that their meat was seized by the provincial police at the time, I did not know that, I did not know," says Desjardins.

Desjardins recounts the history of the Algonquins and how they lost most of their lands, were deprived of their natural resources and what life is like as a result of such practices. At one point he encounters a Rapid Lake woman, Louisa Ratt, who has lost all five of her children: two in a fire, two from cirrhosis and one from an aneurysm. And yet, Ratt somehow seemed to cope. "It was so horrible and she just stood there making jokes, it was incredible," said Desjardins.

Desjardins also said in the film that, "If all of the Indians in Canada made up a country, it would rank 63rd in terms of quality of life, next to India and the Congo. And yet Indians don't qualify for international aid."

Unfortunately, Quebec Native Affairs Minister Benoit Pelletier disagrees with Desjardins' vision in the film. "There are disparities in the different Algonquin communities and it's not true that everything is going wrong," Pelletier said in a recent

Montreal Gazette article. "The village of Kitigan Zibi is a healthy one and things are looking good in Lac Simon and Timiskaming as well."

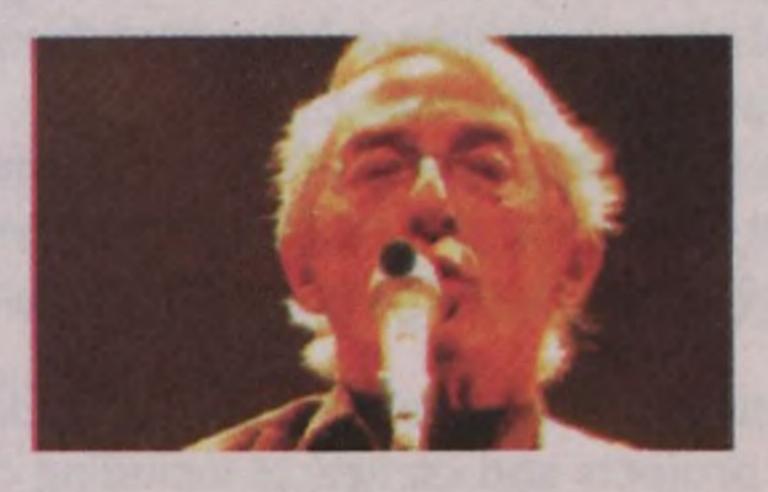
In Desjardin's film, however, he presents statistics on how in Lac Simon, 50 per cent of the community's youth have attempted suicide, a far cry from "healthy."

When asked about Pelletier's statement Desjardins responded, "Yeah, um, that is not correct. It is not right, I wonder if he, himself could live one or two weeks in one of these communities, I was suggesting that he go there for a couple of weeks and if afterwards he would see it the same way."

Desjardins also takes a hard line on sovereignty. In his opinion the Algonquin people would suffer a "bitter fate," if Quebec were to separate. Desjardins notes that, with the exception of the Crees, the province has never ceded territory to the aboriginals of the province. "It would be harder to negotiate with a PQ government than a Liberal government," he added.

The Invisible Nation is a National Film Board of Canada production that can be ordered for a public screening through their website and is also playing in theatres across Quebec presently. For more information or to order a copy go to: www.onf.ca/webextension/peuple-invisible/

If all of the Indians in Canada made up a country, it would rank 63rd in terms of quality of life, next to India and the Congo.



Richard Desjardins

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Take notice that Jacob Hubert Gull home address 34, Poplar Street, Waswanipi, Quebec JOY 3CO declared to the registrar of civil status to be the father of Erica Raymonde Polson born on February 13, 1974 in Chibougamau and daughter of Caroline Mary-Ann Polson.

Therefore, the undersigned requests that the registrar of civil status register his name as father of Erica Raymonde Polson on the act of birth of the latter and whose surname will be modified to read as follows: Polson-Gull.

In addition, take notice that any objection from a third person to the tardy declaration of filiation must be made known to the authors of the declaration, to the minor child of 14 years of age or over and to be the registrar of civil status within 20 days of the last publication of a notice of the declaration.

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- Investigate potential projects in civil works;
- · Liaise with existing clients, contractors and sub-contrac-
- Liaise with Board of Directors, Chief Operating Officer and Site Supervisors;
- Monitor project expenditures and working with accounting personnel to ensure financial aspects of contracts/projects are accurately monitored;
- Oversees the performance of all trade contractors and reviews architectural and engineering drawings to make sure that all specifications and regulations are being fol-
- Is responsible for the proper administration of the construction projects and contracts including obtaining permits and licenses;

Deadline to apply: January 11, 2008

Qualifications:

- 1. Graduate of a four-year degree program in construction management or construction science. Graduate engineers or architects will also be considered if they have additional training in business administration and accounting.
- 2. Five years or more of experience assisting or supervising construction projects of increasing complexity.
- 3. Ability to work under pressure and coordinate numerous activities and groups of people who need to cooperate to achieve maximum efficiency.
- 4. Good Oral and Communication Skills (French and English)

For information, contact: Sammy Blackned, Chief Operating Officer. Tawich Development Corporation 819-978-0264 x217 Please send C.V. to: sammyb@creenet.com

UNDER THE NORTHERN SKY Getting to know you by Xavier Kataquapit

ecently, I visited one of my favourite breakfast restaurants in Timmins. I ordered my usual serving of eggs, sausage, home fries and toast along with a bottomless cup of coffee. I am still trying to watch my diet and this heavy morning meal is an indulgence that I take in from time to time.

I was happy to meet a familiar waitress and we talked for a few moments while I looked over the menu and I sipped on a fresh cup of coffee. This waitress is someone I have met many times over nine years. My first recollection of her was in another restaurant on the south end of the city and then when I had discovered another great place to eat I noticed she had taken employment there also.

Familiarity has its rewards. This bright lady has memorized my regular order of sausage and eggs: over hard with whole wheat toast. She makes me feel special. It feels good to be surrounded by people that have grown to know me as a regular customer in our little restaurant world.

In the middle of enjoying my meal, the familiar waitress is on her way out as she is changing shifts with another server in the restaurant. At the entrance as she is leaving, she waves good bye to her regular customers and is quickly on her way out. As she disappears down the sidewalk, I realize that as she leaves, I have no clue as to where she is off to or what her life is all about. Of course the same goes for me as she has no idea who I am or where I live.

I realize that, for most people in the city, this is what life is like. Every day, I share moments with people who work in restaurants, gas stations, retail stores and various offices. Although we really don't have close ties there is something wonderful about greeting each other regularly and we are all considerate to each other. I grew up in a tiny and remote First Nation where everybody knew everything about

everyone. My familiarity with people stretched back for generations. I am still adapting to the relatively new experience of living in cities and towns with large populations.

In small communities, people develop preconceived notions about who you are by the family you come from and its history in the community. Everyone knows who you are and what you are doing. People know when you are coming or going and at times life is like living in a fish bowl. There are many good things about being closely connected to the people around you. It feels good to wander around a community of family and friends.

There is a difficult side to this reality, however. Sometimes, I find it refreshing to visit places that I have never been to before where I can interact with people I have never met and that I will possibly never have the chance to see again. The incredible part is that, most of the time, these strangers treat me better than some of the people I have known all my life.

The more I travel and the more I interact with complete strangers, the more I enjoy meeting new people. I am also losing my fear of heading off to new places and expanding my horizons. At this point in my life I am starting to learn that these once-in-a-lifetime meetings with strangers are one-time opportunities. This fact gives me the incentive to make these meetings positive.

I continue to be apprehensive of new situations, cultures and traditions, but I am learning that most people are decent individuals eager to share a kind moment. I find hope in humanity through the kindness I receive from those I meet on my journey. No matter what colour, race, language or creed, I am always pleasantly surprised at the broad smiles and good wishes that come my way. We all have a lot more in common than we know.

CLASSIFIEDS

BIRTHDAYS

A birthday greeting to my niece Mary Niquanicappo on December 21, 2007. You are special and I want to wish you a Happy Birthday and many more to come. I hope you get what you wish for on your special day. Enjoy your day! Love you, from your Aunt Betsy (Whap)

Birthday message to Noel Masty: Once in a lifetime you experience a time in your life only once. It is a special time for which I always remember and hold to my heart. It was when you were born on December 25, 1983. To my only son who is special to me always. Through good times and bad times you always pull through. That's my special gift to you on this special day. I wanted to tell you that you have strength which helps you through life's journey. Have a Happy Birthday and a Merry Christmas! With love, from Mom (Whap)

A birthday wish to someone who is very special to me, my grandson Abraham (Boo Boo) Masty Jr, born on December 29, 2004. When a small child holds your hand, he/she holds your whole world for a moment. Nothing in the whole world can replace the love you feel when you're with your special angel. So Happy 3rd Birthday my dear grandson and many more to come. Lots of Hugs and Kisses with Love from Grandma Betsy Masty (Whap)

A special Birthday greeting goes out to my sweet, adorable, big girl. She will be celebrating her 6th birthday on December 31, 2007. And also to our special friend/cousin of ours, Jamal Robert Mason Moar. He celebrated his 6th birthday too on Dec 16, 2007. Another birthday greeting goes out to these 2 people: they are "Buddy"...Neil our dad who we love so, so much and his twin brother our uncle "Uuchimash". Happy Birthday to all of you... May you enjoy yourselves on you special day... From: Natacha & Girls...Jasmine, Edith, Melanie and Baby Caitlyn Wapachee (NEM).

would like to wish a happy 1st birthday to my cousin, Gabrielle Flageole from Ouje-Bougoumou on January 7. I miss you and I love you so very much! May your very first Birthday be the best!! From your very tall cousin Beeta! Valentina).

HOLIDAY GREETINGS - 301

I would like to wish a very Merry Christmas to all our family members that we will not be able to see on Christmas Morning: my parents, Emily and Abraham; my sisters Jane, Louise, Joanne, Annie and Marilyn; my one and only brother Robert; my nieces and nephews Stella, Katrina, Brittany, Ryan, Albert, Austin, Nicholas, George, Emily, Sean, Abrianna, Tommy, Raina, Jackie and to baby Esther who will be celebrating her first christmas. My sister-in-law Cheyenne and my brothers-in-law Murray, Ralph and Brian. I wish that Santa fulfills all your wishes from Dina, Richard and Melissa in Mistissini.

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMNETS

The Native Women's Shelter of Montreal has a 1-800 number. You can now reach us toll-free at: 1-866-403-4688. Please check out our website at: www.nwsm.info and feel free to give us any feedback.

Do you need help? Someone to talk to? Call Kid's Help Phone's toll-free at: 1-800-668-6868, or visit: www.kidshelp.sympatico.ca.

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